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LR 3

think are...that we can defend, but those priorities aren't necessarily communicated very well. And Senator Beutler has a process that he's going to talk about by which we can become more engaged as a whole in this whole appropriations process and spending process and...and maybe be able to understand where we're going strategically from a spending...from the spending side. We're going...the Appropriations Committee is going to speak to how little flexibility there really is in some of our ongoing expenses, some of our ongoing obligations, and how our current process does not really encourage us to consider how we change things, how we move to greater efficiencies, how we...what our choices are. Actually, the current process that we have used, at least while I've been in the Legislature, is to spend whatever...the Appropriations Committee tries to hold the line, but we tend to spend whatever and then allow the Governor to veto down to whatever the level is that...that is comfortable for the administration, then we try to override. But, in essence, we are letting someone else, we are ceding our ability and our right...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...to set our own priorities to the other branch of government. So this is really about us doing...setting our own priorities, and I would urge you to take it seriously. It will be a paper tiger if you just adopt LR 3 without any commitment to actually holding to the 3 percent. Every person who votes for this resolution should make a personal commitment as to what they're going to spend money on and what they're going to let go, and what their priorities are, and how they are personally going to adhere to a 3 percent spending limit for this year for this biennium. It will require choices and it will require hard choices, and it will require choices by all of us and not just those of us who are so fortunate to sit on the Appropriations...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: For opening on the committee amendment, Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein. The committee amendment,